UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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EXAMINER
RAHMAN, MOHAMMAD N

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2161	

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
05/11/2009	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	10/564,262	DAVIDSON ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	MOHAMMAD N. RAHMAN	2161

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *05 February 2007*.
2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.
3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1,3,5-14 and 24-44* is/are pending in the application.
    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6)☒ Claim(s) *1,3,5-14 and 24-44* is/are rejected.
7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *09 January 2006* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.
    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
    a)☒ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:
        1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
        2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
        3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date *06/23/2008*.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   This action is in response to application 10/564,262 filed on February 05, 2007 in

which **claims 1, 3, 5-14 and 24-44** are presented for examination.

Information Disclosure Statement

2.   The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 06/23/2008 is in

compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97 and MPEP § 609. It has been placed in

the application file and the information referred to therein has been considered as to the

merits.

Status of Claims

3.   Claims **1, 3, 5-14 and 24 - 44** are presented for examination. Claims 2, 4 and

15-23 are canceled by the applicant.

4.   The claims and only the claims form the metes and bounds of the invention.

"Office personnel are to give claims their broadest reasonable interpretation in light of

the supporting disclosure. In re Morris, 127 F.3d 1048, 1054-55, 44 USPQ2d 1023,

1027-28 (Fed. Cir. 1997). Limitations appearing in the specification but not recited in the

claim are not read into the claim. In re Prater, 415 F.2d 1393, 1404-05, 162 USPQ

541,550-551 (CCPA 1969)" (MPEP p 2100-8, c 2, I 45-48; p 2100-9, c 1, I 1-4). The

Examiner has full latitude to interpret each claim in the broadest reasonable sense. The

Examiner will reference prior art using terminology familiar to one of ordinary skill in the

art. Such an approach is broad in concept and can be either explicit or implicit in

meaning.

Claim Rejection – 35 USC § 102

5.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that

form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public
> use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United
> States.

6.   **Claims 1, 3, 5-14 and 24 - 44** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) as being

anticipated by Gudjonsson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,564,261) herein referred to as

Gudjonsson.

   As per claim 1, Gudjonsson teaches, a method for determining one or more

relationships between a plurality of users of a network system (see at "abstract" and col.

2, lines 51-67), the method including the steps of:

a) "populating a database with a unique network user identifier for each of the plurality

of users" at "abstract" and col. 2, lines 51-67,

b) "selecting a user and further populating the database with connection data for the

selected user from a network access device associated with the selected user to

provide unique network user identifiers of users known to the selected user" at

"abstract", col. 2, lines 51-67, col. 7, lines 35-67 and col. 8, lines 47-65,

c) "repeating step b) for the remainder of the plurality of users" col. 2, lines 51-67, col. 7,

lines 35-67, col. 8, lines 47-67 and col. 9, lines 1- 7,

d) "for a predetermined user, searching each of the plurality of user's connection data in

the database for the predetermined user's unique network user identifier to identify all

users that have the predetermined user's unique network user identifier in their

connection data" at "abstract", col. 2, lines 51-67, col. 7, lines 35-67, col. 8, lines 47-65

and col. 9, lines 1- 7 (since the users are already predetermined),

e) storing the network user identifiers of the users located by the search of step d), to

provide set of data for the predetermined user representative of one or more other

user's relationship with the predetermined user" at "abstract", col. 2, lines 51-67, col. 7,

lines 35-67 and col. 8, lines 47-65 and col. 9, lines 1- 7 (since the users are already

predetermined), and

f) "providing data from the data setoff step e) to a network access device associated

with the predetermined user" at "abstract", col. 18, lines 18-59, col. 2, lines 51-67, col. 7,

lines 35-67 and col. 8, lines 1-2 and col. 33, lines 31-48 (since, the users are already

predetermined) and .

**Note that claim 30 recites the same corresponding limitations as set forth
in claim 1 above, thus the claim is rejected accordingly.**

2. (canceled)

As per claim 3, Gudjonsson teaches, "a method as claimed in claim 1 where

step d) includes searching each user's connection data in the database for any

additional network user identifiers for the predetermined user" at "abstract", col. 2, lines

51-67, col. 7, lines 35-67, col. 8, lines 47-65 and col. 9, lines 1- 7 (since the users are already predetermined).

4. (canceled)

As per claim 5, Gudjonsson teaches, "a method as claimed in claim 3 where step f) includes comparing the data set of step e) with the connection data for the predetermined user, and providing to a network access device associated with the predetermined user the network user identifier of any users comprised in the data set of step e) which do not comprise part of the predetermined user's connection data" at "abstract", col. 2, lines 51-67, col. 7, lines 35-67, col. 8, lines 47-65 and col. 9, lines 1- 7 (since the users are already predetermined and according to the users identifier the connection data is being used).

As per claim 6, Gudjonsson teaches, "a method as claimed in claim 5 including the step of providing the predetermined user with the opportunity to include the network user identifiers of any users comprised in the data set of step e) which do not comprise part of the predetermined user's connection data in the predetermined user's connection data" at "abstract", col. 2, lines 51-67, col. 7, lines 35-67, col. 8, lines 47-65 and col. 9, lines 1- 7 (since the users are already predetermined and according to the users identifier the connection data is being used).

As per claim 7, Gudjonsson teaches, "a method as claimed in claim 1 where step f) includes comparing the connection data of the predetermined user with the data set of step e), and providing to a network access device associated with the

predetermined user the network user identifier of any users comprised in the connection

data which do not comprise part of the data set of step e)" at "abstract", col. 2, lines 51-

67, col. 7, lines 35-67, col. 8, lines 47-65 and col. 9, lines 1- 7 (since the users are

already predetermined and according to the users identifier the connection data is being

used).

As per claim 8, Gudjonsson teaches, " a method as claimed in claim 7 including

the step of using the network user identifiers of any users comprised in the connection

data which are not present in the data set of step e) to contact users whose network

user identifiers are in the predetermined user's connection data but not in the data set of

step e) to invite those users to include the predetermined user's network user identifier

in their connection data" at "abstract", col. 2, lines 51-67, col. 7, lines 35-67, col. 8, lines

47-65 and col. 9, lines 1- 21 (since the users are already predetermined and according

to the users identifier the connection data is being used for a user's request).

As per claim 9, Gudjonsson teaches, "a method as claimed in claim 1 including

the step of using the data set of step e) to provide an indication of the popularity of a

user of the network system" at "abstract", col. 2, lines 51-67, col. 3, lines 1-45, col. 7,

lines 35-67, col. 8, lines 47-65 and col. 9, lines 1- 7 (since the users are already

predetermined).

As per claim 10, Gudjonsson teaches, "method as claimed in claim 1 including

the step of determining whether a network user identifier for a predetermined user has

changed, and if a change is detected, performing steps d) and e) and using the user

identifiers comprised in the data set of step e) to contact users who have the
predetermined user's network user identifier and inform those users of the change in the
predetermined user's network user identifier" at "abstract", col. 2, lines 51-67, col. 3,
lines 1-45, col. 7, lines 35-67, col. 8, lines 47-65 and col. 9, lines 1- 7 (since the users
are already predetermined).

As per claim 11, Gudjonsson teaches, "a method as claimed in claim 1
including the steps of further populating the database with a user preferred identifier by
which a predetermined user prefers to be identified and associating the user preferred
identifier with the predetermined user's unique network user identifier prior to performing
step d)" at "abstract", col. 2, lines 51-67, col. 3, lines 1-45, col. 7, lines 35-67, col. 8,
lines 47-65 and col. 9, lines 1- 7 (since the users are already predetermined) at
"abstract", col. 2, lines 51-67, col. 3, lines 1-45, col. 7, lines 35-67, col. 8, lines 47-65
and col. 9, lines 1- 7 (since the users are already predetermined).

As per claim 12, Gudjonsson teaches, "a method as claimed in claim 11 where
step f) includes sending an invitation to a network access device associated with each
of the users that have the predetermined user's unique network user identifier in their
connection data to associate the predetermined user's user preferred identifier with the
predetermined user's unique network user identifier in their connection data" at
"abstract", col. 2, lines 51-67, col. 7, lines 35-67, col. 8, lines 47-65 and col. 9, lines 1- 7
(since the users are already predetermined and according to the users identifier the
connection data is being used).

   As per claim 13, Gudjonsson teaches, "a method as claimed in claim 1

including the step of further populating the database with one or more characteristics of

each user prior to step d), searching the record in the database for each user in the data

set of step e) for at least one of the characteristics, and providing the network user

identifiers of those users having the at lest one characteristics to a network access

device associated with the predetermined user" at "abstract", col. 2, lines 51-67, col. 7,

lines 35-67, col. 8, lines 47-65 and col. 9, lines 1- 7 (since the users are already

predetermined and according to the users identifier the connection data is being used).

   As per claim 14, Gudjonsson teaches, "a method as claimed in claim 13

including the step of searching the record in the database of each user comprised in the

connection data of each user comprised in the predetermined users connection data

and searching the record in the database and connection data of each user comprised

in the data set of step e) and each user comprised in the connection data of each user

comprised in the data set of step e) for the at least one" at "abstract", col. 2, lines 51-67,

col. 7, lines 35-67, col. 8, lines 47-65 and col. 9, lines 1- 7 (since the users are already

predetermined and according to the users identifier the connection data is being used).

15. (canceled)

16. (canceled)

17. (canceled)

18. (canceled)

19. (canceled)

20. (canceled)

21. (canceled)

22. (canceled)

23. (canceled)

As per claim 24, Gudjonsson teaches,   a method as claimed in claim 1 including the steps of:

"further populating the database with additional user identifiers of each user, such user identifiers relating to the applicable network system or an other network system" at "abstract", col. 2, lines 51-67, col. 7, lines 35-67, col. 8, lines 47-65 and col. 9, lines 1- 7 (since the users are already predetermined and according to the users identifier the connection data is being used in a network system);

"enabling other users of the network system with one of a predetermined user's user identifiers to request other user identifiers from the system for the predetermined user" at "abstract", col. 2, lines 51-67, col. 7, lines 35-67, col. 8, lines 47-65 and col. 9, lines 1- 7 (since the users are already predetermined and according to the users identifier the connection data is being used in a network system); and

"providing such other users with a predetermined user's additional user identifiers" at "abstract", col. 2, lines 51-67, col. 7, lines 35-67, col. 8, lines 47-65 and

col. 9, lines 1- 7 (since the users are already predetermined and according to the other

users identifier the connection data is being used in a network system).

As per claim 25, Gudjonsson teaches, "a method as claimed in claim 1 including

the step of allowing a predetermined user to mark some or all of their connection data

as not accessible to other users of the system to the effect that it would appear to other

users of the system that the marked data is not included in the predetermined user's

connection data" at "abstract", col. 2, lines 51-67, col. 7, lines 35-67, col. 8, lines 47-65

and col. 9, lines 1- 7 (since the users are already predetermined and according to the

other users identifier the connection data is being used in a network system).

As per claim 26, Gudjonsson teaches, "a method as claimed in claim 1 including

the steps of: providing a plurality of databases populated with connection data and

connecting the plurality of databases to a centralised database" at "abstract", col. 2,

lines 6-43 and col. 35, lines 13-18;

"populating the centralised database with some or all of the connection data from

the connected databases" at "abstract", col. 2, lines 51-67, col. 7, lines 35-67, col. 8,

lines 47-65 and col. 9, lines 1- 7;

"maintaining synchronisation between the connection data in the centralised

database and the connected databases" at "abstract", col. 2, lines 51-67, col. 7, lines

35-67, col. 8, lines 47-65, col. 9, lines 1- 7, and col. 17 and lines 48-66; and

"providing a predetermined user's connection data to the predetermined user

through one of the connected databases" at "abstract", col. 2, lines 51-67, col. 7, lines

35-67, col. 8, lines 47-65 and col. 9, lines 1- 7 (since the users are already predetermined and according to the other users identifier the connection data is being used in a network system).

As per claim 27, Gudjonsson teaches, a method as claimed in claim 1 including the steps of:

"providing a plurality of databases populated with connection data and connecting the plurality of databases directly with each other" see at figs. 1, 10 and 11 and col. 12, lines 42-54;

"transmitting processing requests from either a predetermined user of a connected database or a process operating on the connected database itself, to the other connected databases" at col. 14, lines 13-28 and col. 18, lines 34-58;

"processing requests received from other connected databases" at col. 14, lines 13-28 and col. 18, lines 34-58;

"transmitting the results of any processing requests to the originating connected database" at col. 14, lines 13-28 and col. 18, lines 34-58; and

"providing the aggregate results received from all connected databases to the predetermined user or process operating on the originating connected database" at "abstract" and col. 14, lines 13-28 and col. 18, lines 34-58.

As per claim 28, Gudjonsson teaches, "a method as claimed in claim 1 including the steps of:

"providing a plurality of databases populated with connection data and connecting the plurality of databases to a central inter-operator exchange transmitting processing requests from either a predetermined user of a connected database or a process operating on the connected database itself to the central inter-operator exchange transmitting such processing requests from the central inter-operator exchange to the connected databases" see at figs. 1, 10 and 11 and col. 12, lines 42-54, col. 14, lines 13-28 and col. 18, lines 34-58;

"processing requests received from the central inter-operator exchange; transmitting the results of any processing requests received from the central inter-operator exchange to the central inter-operator exchange" see at figs. 1, 10 and 11 and col. 12, lines 42-54, col. 14, lines 13-28 and col. 18, lines 34-58;

"transmitting results received from connected databases either individually or in aggregate from the central inter-operator exchange to the originating connected database; and providing the aggregate results received from the central inter-operator exchange to the predetermined user or process operating on the originating connected database" see at figs. 1, 10 and 11 and col. 12, lines 42-54, col. 14, lines 13-28 and col. 18, lines 34-58.

As per claim 29, Gudjonsson teaches, a method as claimed in claim 1 including the steps of:

"providing a plurality of databases populated with connection data and

connecting the plurality of databases to a central data and processing centre" see at

figs. 1, 10 and 11 and col. 12, lines 42-54, col. 14, lines 13-28 and col. 18, lines 34-58;

"populating the central database and processing centre with the connection data

from the connected databases" see at figs. 1, 10 and 11 and col. 12, lines 42-54, col.

14, lines 13-28 and col. 18, lines 34-58;

"maintaining synchronisation between the connection data in the central

database and processing centre and the connected databases" at col. 17 and lines 48-

66;

"transmitting processing requests from a predetermined user of a connected

database or a process operating on the connected database itself to the central

database and processing centre" see at figs. 1, 10 and 11 and col. 12, lines 42-54, col.

14, lines 13-28 and col. 18, lines 34-58;

"processing requests received from the connected databases' see at figs. 1, 10

and 11 and col. 12, lines 42-54, col. 14, lines 13-28 and col. 18, lines 34-58;

"transmitting the results of any processing requests to the originating connected

database" see at figs. 1, 10 and 11 and col. 12, lines 42-54, col. 14, lines 13-28 and col.

18, lines 34-58; and

"providing the results to the predetermined user or process operating on the originating connected database" see at figs. 1, 10 and 11 and col. 12, lines 42-54, col. 14, lines 13-28 and col. 18, lines 34-58.

As per claim 31, Gudjonsson teaches, "apparatus for determining one or more relationships between a plurality of users of a network system, the apparatus including: a database populated with a unique network user identifier for each of the plurality of users and with connection data for each such user, the connection data being obtained from a network access device associated with each such user, a processor adapted to search each user's connection data in the database for a predetermined user's unique network user identifier to identify all users that have the predetermined user's unique network user identifier in their connection data, a memory device to store the user identifiers located by the search to provide a data set for the predetermined user representative of one or more other user's relationship with the predetermined user, and wherein the processor is further adapted to provide the data set to a network access device associated with the predetermined user" at "abstract", col. 18, lines 18-59, col. 2, lines 51-67, col. 7, lines 35-67 and col. 8, lines 1-2 and col. 33, lines 31-48 (since, the users are already predetermined.

As per claim 32, Gudjonsson teaches, "a method as claimed in claim 9 including the step of providing the indication of popularity to an operator of a separate network system which is interconnected to the network system" at "abstract", col. 2, lines 51-67, col. 3, lines 1-45, col. 7, lines 35-67, col. 8, lines 47-65 and col. 9, lines 1- 7 (since the users are already predetermined).

 As per claim 33, Gudjonsson teaches, "a method as claimed in claim 1 including

the step of determining whether a network user identifier for a predetermined user has

changed, and if a change is detected, including the new network user identifier in the

connection data on the database prior to performing step d)" at "abstract", col. 2, lines

51-67, col. 3, lines 1-45, col. 7, lines 35-67, col. 8, lines 47-65 and col. 9, lines 1- 7

(since the users are already predetermined).

 As per claim 34, Gudjonsson teaches, "a method as claimed in claim 1 including

the step of determining whether a network user identifier for a predetermined user has

changed, and if a change is detected, performing steps d) and e) and using the user

identifiers comprised in the data set of step e) to send an instruction to a network

access device associated with each of the users who have the predetermined user's

network user identifier to update the predetermined user's network identifier in their

connection data" at "abstract", col. 2, lines 51-67, col. 3, lines 1-45, col. 7, lines 35-67,

col. 8, lines 47-65 and col. 9, lines 1- 7 (since the users are already predetermined).

 As per claim 35, Gudjonsson teaches, "a method as claimed in claim 11 where

step f) includes sending an instruction to a network access device associated with each

of the users who have the predetermined user's unique network user identifier in their

connection data to associate the predetermined user's network user identifier with the

predetermined user's user preferred identifier in their connection data" at "abstract", col.

2, lines 51-67, col. 3, lines 1-45, col. 7, lines 35-67, col. 8, lines 47-65 and col. 9, lines

1- 7 (since the users are already predetermined).

As per claim 36, Gudjonsson teaches, a method as claimed in claim 13

including searching for a given user identifier or a user preferred identifier" at "abstract",

col. 2, lines 51-67, col. 3, lines 1-45, col. 7, lines 35-67, col. 8, lines 47-65 and col. 9,

lines 1- 7 (since the users are already predetermined).

As per claim 37, Gudjonsson teaches, "a method as claimed in claim 36

including searching for a given user identifier or a user preferred identifier" at "abstract",

col. 2, lines 51-67, col. 3, lines 1-45, col. 7, lines 35-67, col. 8, lines 47-65 and col. 9,

lines 1- 7 (since the users are already predetermined).

As per claim 38, Gudjonsson teaches, "a method as claimed in claim 14

including searching for a given user identifier or a user preferred identifier" at "abstract",

col. 2, lines 51-67, col. 3, lines 1-45, col. 7, lines 35-67, col. 8, lines 47-65 and col. 9,

lines 1- 7 (since the users are already predetermined).

As per claim 39, Gudjonsson teaches, "a method as claimed in claim 13

including the step of searching the record in the database of each user comprised in the

connection data of the predetermined user for the at least one characteristics" at

"abstract", col. 2, lines 51-67, col. 3, lines 1-45, col. 7, lines 35-67, col. 8, lines 47-65

and col. 9, lines 1- 7 (since the users are already predetermined).

As per claim 40, Gudjonsson teaches, "a method as claimed in claim 1 including

the step of synchronizing the connection data stored on the database with the

connection data on users' network access devices" at "abstract", col. 2, lines 51-67, col.

3, lines 1-45, col. 7, lines 35-67, col. 8, lines 47-65 and col. 9, lines 1- 7 and col. 17,

lines 48-65.

As per claim 41, Gudjonsson teaches, "a method as claimed in claim 1 including

receiving new connection data from a user's network access device which includes

changes from the connection data for that user present on the database, and including

the new connection data in that user's connection data on the database prior to step d)"

at "abstract", col. 2, lines 51-67, col. 3, lines 1-45, col. 7, lines 35-67, col. 8, lines 47-65

and col. 9, lines 1- 7 (since the users are already predetermined).

As per claim 42, Gudjonsson teaches, "a method as claimed in claim 1 wherein

the plurality of users comprise a subset of users of the network system" at col. 2, lines

51-67, col. 3, lines 1-45, col. 7, lines 35-67, col. 8, lines 47-65, col. 9, lines 1- 7 and col.

23 and lines 33-45.

As per claim 43, Gudjonsson teaches, "a method as claimed in claim 42

including the step of detecting any users added to the subset and providing the other

users in the subset with the unique user identifier of the added user" at col. 2, lines 51-

67, col. 3, lines 1-45, col. 7, lines 35-67, col. 8, lines 47-65, col. 9, lines 1- 7 and col. 23

and lines 33-45.

As per claim 44, Gudjonsson teaches, "a method as claimed in claim 42

including the step of detecting any users removed from the subset and notifying any

other member of the subset that has the removed user's unique identifier in their

connection data" at Fig. 22 and col. 23 and lines 33-45 and col. 27, lines 36-44.

Conclusion

7.   The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Robertson (US Patent No. 6,269,369) discloses a network-computer-based personal contact manager system is disclosed wherein users of networked clients maintain and update a set of user information which is stored in a relational database on a networked server.

Catchpole et al. (US Patent No. 7,441,002) discloses "establishing data connections".

Lunt et al. (US Patent No. 7,188,153) discloses a system and method for managing connections in an online social network.

Contact Information

8.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mohammad N. Rahman whose telephone number is 571-270-1631. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30am - 5:00 pm, Mon - Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mofiz Apu M can be reached on 572-272-4080. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should

you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a

USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information

system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Mohammad N Rahman/
Examiner, Art Unit 2161
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